



Datchworth

PARISH COUNCIL

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF DATCHWORTH, BULLS GREEN, BURNHAM GREEN & HOOKS CROSS

Datchworth Parish Council Briefing Note

<p>Agenda item heading</p> <p>Welwyn Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan</p>	<p>Date</p> <p>22nd January 2024</p> <hr/> <p>Committee/ Working Group</p> <p>Planning</p>
<p>Why</p> <p>Datchworth Parish Council has been invited by Welwyn Parish Council to comment 'Neighbourhood Development Plan'. This 91-page draft document has previously been circulated to all DPC Councillors.</p> <p>This is an informal consultation in advance of the formal Regulation 14 process. (n.b. Regulation 14 is a pre-submission consultation before it is submitted to the local planning authority for independent examination). A Welwyn Parish referendum and adoption process then follows.</p>	
<p>How (including Time and Money)</p> <p>Community engagement with Welwyn parishioners has taken place with an overwhelming majority in favour of production of a neighbourhood plan (NP).</p> <p>The NP is required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be appropriate and have regard to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF); - Contribute to the achievement of sustainable development; - Be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan; - Be compatible with human rights and any remaining obligations post-Brexit. <p>It can endeavour to influence other plans (e.g. Local Transport Plans) but cannot unilaterally decide on key aspects such as roads and transport.</p>	
<p>When</p> <p>The planning committee has perused the draft neighbourhood development plan and considers it to be a very thorough and comprehensive document.</p> <p>Its narrative and policies are split into five broad categories: Planning (covering green belt, housing, design, development sites, agriculture); Transport & Travel; Environment; Living in the Parish (covering health & well-being, culture, heritage tourism, security, crime, shopping, work</p>	

and employment); and Community Infrastructure (covering work, employment, education and utilities).

It is considered that no comment be raised on the majority of policies contained within the document as these are either site specific to Welwyn Parish area, or are generic in terms of a good planning as reflected in the approach taken with other neighbourhood plans and repeated within higher-level local plans.

In terms of commenting on specific proposed policies, it is suggested that DPC support the principle contained in policy 'T&T Policy no.2 Improve Road Safety with Through Traffic' (page 33) relating to working with the highway authority to develop and implement traffic calming measures to reduce vehicle speed and congestion, improve health and safety and enhance the street environment for non-motorists. This policy also suggests alignment with the "20 is plenty" campaign for a legally enforceable 20mph zone to reduce vehicle speed and discourage rat-running through villages.

It is suggested that this particularly transportation issue could be something for DPC to consider/pursue in the future?

DG